

A Program of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Funded in Part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration

Lead Office Hilo, Hawai'i

East Hawai'i Center Hilo, Hawai'i

West Hawai'i Center Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i

Maui Center Kīhei, Hawai'i

Honolulu Center Honolulu, Hawai'i

Kaua'i Center Lihu'e, Hawai'i

Hawaii Business Research Library Kīhei, Hawai'i April 9, 2010

City Council, Budget Committee Members

RE: Office of Economic Development (OED)

Dear City Council Budget Committee,

You are receiving this letter in support of the continuing presence of the OED. The Honolulu SBDC of which I am the Center Director has often collaborated and partnered with the OED on ensuring that Hawaii's small business community is well supported in their efforts to keep the economy of our island chain vibrant through their successes.

I personally have worked with the staff of the OED, in particular Ann Chung and Alenka Remec, both whom have been innovative and progressive in assisting both their organization and ours in meeting our mutual organizational goals.

As the SBDC is also an organization that forwards the agenda of economic development for the state of Hawaii, we request that you continue funding for the Office of Economic development, not only for the coming year, but for many thereafter.

Should you have need for further information, please feel free to contact me: <u>Caroline.kim@hawaii-sbdc.org</u> or at 808-945-1430.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Caroline Kim,

Honolulu SBDC Center Director